

Famous

YOUR MOVIE GUIDE

» AUGUST 2010 » VOLUME 11 » NUMBER 8

THIS ONE'S
FOR THE
BOYS

SYLVESTER STALLONE

ON *THE EXPENDABLES*



JASON
BATEMAN
ANNA
KENDRICK
BILL
MURRAY

FLEX

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always said that he would
never get a
minivan.
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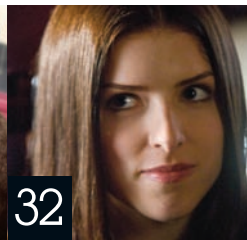
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LAST ACTION HERO » There was a time iconic action star **Sylvester Stallone** wanted to distance himself from the guns 'n' gore genre — but no more. The 64-year-old, who wrote, stars in and directs this month's macho mercenary pic *The Expendables*, tells us he's embraced his status as an action hero and, although it takes a toll on his aging body, he's ready to kick butt one more time • **By Ingrid Randoja**



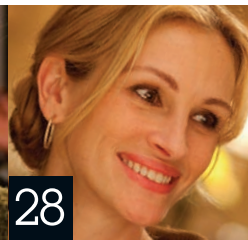
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GETTING SOME ACTION

Okay, let's all say it together: "Yo, Adrian." And now let's never say it again. Over the past month, whenever I've told someone we have an interview with **Sylvester Stallone** in the August issue, their response has been to drop their voice a few octaves and say, "Yo, Adrian." Well, not everyone. The guys.

I have to admit, at first I wasn't sure Stallone was the best choice for the cover. I also have to admit, I am not the target audience for his new movie, *The Expendables*. I find the trailers cheesy, and the plot — about a team of mercenaries trying to overthrow a South American dictator — reminds me of the movie within the movie in *Tropic Thunder*. Which is to say it reminds me of a movie specifically written to send up action pics.

But, following the "Yo, Adrian," my conversations with those men went something like this. Me: "Are you looking forward to his new movie, *The Expendables*?" Him: "Is that the one with all those old '80s action stars? Yeah, that looks pretty awesome. Dolph Lundgren. Eric Roberts. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Bruce Willis. Mickey Rourke." Several of the men went on to describe the buzz in the theatre when that cheesy trailer came on — well, the buzz among the men.

I really shouldn't generalize. I'm sure there are a lot of women who are just as excited about this trip back to the heyday of Stallone action pics, when ripped men in ripped camo put black guck on their faces and went into the jungle to kill some bad guy with a bad accent.

The truth is, the one Stallone impersonation I've quite enjoyed over the past month is the one done by a woman — our deputy editor Ingrid Randoja, who interviewed Sly for the story. Her phrase of choice, though, is "No doubt about it," which was Stallone's answer when she asked whether he suffers from body dysmorphia. Good question Ingrid. To read the whole interview turn to "Talk About a Strong Cast," page 36. And, I have to admit, after watching the trailer a few more times and reading the interview, I kinda want to see the film.

At the other end of the spectrum we have an interview with **Bill Murray** for *Get Low*, a character-driven indie that wowed critics on the festival circuit. Read "Why Bill Murray Won't Return Your Calls," page 24, to find out why landing Murray for any role is an art form.

In "**Anna Kendrick** Shows Support," page 32, the suddenly hot young actor discusses her role in the Toronto-set Michael Cera movie *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* and explains why she doesn't mind supporting roles. Which is good, because she seems to get a lot of them.

And **Jason Bateman** continues to fill the gap between the *Arrested Development* TV show and the much-anticipated, will-it-ever-happen *Arrested Development* movie with interesting movies. This month he stars in the rom-com *The Switch* opposite Jennifer Aniston. To find out why he likes this film — and why he's worried about it — turn to "Bate and Switch," page 20.

////////////////////////////////////
Marni Weisz, editor

Famous

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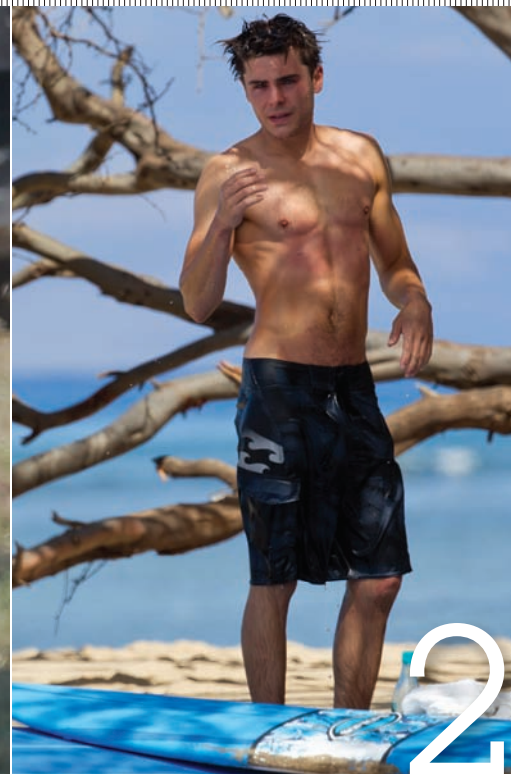
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CAUGHT ON FILM

CHRISTOPHER MINTZ-PLASSE
SALMA HAYEK
ZAC EFRON
RENÉE ZELLWEGER
REESE WITHERSPOON



1 Reese Witherspoon lets her hair fly on the Filmore, California, set of *Water for Elephants*. She plays the star of a circus act.

PHOTO BY FAME/KEYSTONE

2 Moondoggie, you're so dreamy. Alas, Zac Efron was not filming a *Gidget* remake on this beautiful Hawaiian beach. Just out surfing.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

3 Salma Hayek brings her unusually cute daughter Valentina along while promoting *Grown Ups* in New York City.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

4 A taut Renée Zellweger jogs through the streets of Paris. She was there with boyfriend Bradley Cooper, who was doing press for *The A-Team*.

PHOTO BY KCSPPRESSE/SPLASH NEWS

5 Happy birthday, Christopher Mintz-Plasse. Today you are a man. A pasty, pasty man. The star of *Superbad* and *Kick-Ass* celebrates his 21st birthday at the Venetian hotel in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY DENISE TRUSCELLO/WIREIMAGE

ENTERTAINMENT IN BRIEF

SAMUEL L. JACKSON IS BACK ON THE FORCE



Samuel L. Jackson (left) and Dwayne Johnson as *The Other Guys*' hotshot cops

Everyone relax. There's no need to panic. After taking an inexplicable one-year hiatus from playing cops, Samuel L. Jackson returns the universe to its natural order by playing a hotshot New York City detective in this month's *The Other Guys*.

Jackson did the unthinkable in 2009 and went the whole 12 months without appearing on screen as any sort of law-enforcement officer. Before that, the last year Jackson didn't play a cop was 2001, and even then he played a homeless man (and father of a cop) trying to solve a murder in *The Caveman's Valentine*.

The intervening years went something like this: conflicted cop in *No Good Deed* (2002); NSA agent Augustus Gibbons in *xXx* (2002); sergeant in charge of elite police sharpshooters in *S.W.A.T.* (2003); police commissioner in *Twisted* (2004); Detroit ATF agent in *The Man* (2005); NSA agent Gibbons,

again, in *xXx 2: The Next Level* (2005); police detective on a kidnapping case in *Freedomland* (2006); ex-cop cleaning up crime scenes in *Cleaner* (2007); racist LAPD officer in *Lakeview Terrace* (2008).

That doesn't even include the FBI agent Jackson played in 2006's

Snakes on a Plane or the Special Forces sergeant from 2003's *Basic*. He also voiced a cop, Officer Frank Tenpenny, in the 2004 videogame *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*.

Prior to 2001, he played a New York City detective in *Shaft* (2000), a police negotiator in *The Negotiator* (1998), an unforgiving cop in *Kiss of Death* (1995), and even an idiot cop in the cop-movie satire *Loaded Weapon 1* (1993).

Jackson's next role? John Dromoor, a sympathetic cop protecting a raped woman (Maria Bello) in *Vengeance: A Love Story*, based on the novella by Joyce Carol Oates. —MW



From left: Jackson in *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*, *S.W.A.T.* and *Lakeview Terrace*

Artifact

THIS MONTH'S
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**ROBERT PATTINSON'S
JOURNAL**

OMG! He held in his hands. He wrote in it. It contained his deepest, most personal thoughts. And still does. For \$4,999 (U.S.) you can own the journal that Robert Pattinson uses throughout the weepy love story *Remember Me*.

Available from the Premiere Props website (premiereprops.com), the leather-bound journal is the actual diary Pattinson's character, Tyler Hawkins, holds in his hands.

Inside you'll find handwritten pages and mementoes, and the cover has been dirtied and distressed for the journal's final scene, which takes place in New York City as the World Trade Center towers come down.

If you don't have \$4,999, the site is also offering Hawkins' empty cigarette pack for \$230, baseball bat for \$700, library ID badge for \$1,000 and various wardrobe pieces for \$900 to \$3,000. —MW



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SPOTLIGHT

BRIGITTE
BERMAN
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BARE

Hugh Hefner: *Playboy, Activist and Rebel* hits theatres August 6th



Director Brigitte Berman accepts that the image people hold of Hugh Hefner — *Playboy's* publisher/lothario clad in silk pyjamas with a half-naked woman on each arm — will continue to reign supreme, she just wants us to know there's a lot more to the 84-year-old cultural icon.

Did you know he airlifted Vietnamese orphans to safety in the Playboy jet during the Vietnam war, or that he helped free a woman jailed for having an abortion, or that he deliberately flouted segregation laws by hiring black entertainers to work his clubs?

We learn this, and a whole lot more, in Berman's documentary nod to Hef, *Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel*.

"I made the film because I wanted to show another side of him," says an animated Berman in a recent Toronto interview. Born in Germany, Berman immigrated to Canada when she was 13 and began her filmmaking career producing documentaries at the CBC. The Oscar-winner (she picked up a statue for her 1985 doc *Artie Shaw: Time is All You've Got*) says Hefner's belief in social justice is a story that hasn't been told.

"Whatever you may say about him, his sense of integrity is remarkably strong. It's all there, you cannot deny what he's done for civil rights, first amendment rights."

However, sorting through Hefner's personal archives — including every issue of *Playboy*, which first hit stands in 1953 — to tell the story proved a daunting task. "He started his scrapbooks at the age of 15, there's over 2,000 scrapbooks," says Berman. "So I just began at the beginning. I'm a researcher at heart and I got a little lost in them. It would be three in the morning and I would still be in the Playboy mansion, in the attic on the third floor."

And sometimes Hefner would be there beside her in his pyjamas sorting through the books. But Berman says he never interfered with her work, which initially manifested itself as a seven-and-a-half-hour first cut of the film. Edited down to just over two hours, Berman showed the film to Hefner.

"He was in tears and he was very deeply moved," she says, "but he also laughed a lot. That was nice." ■

Ingrid Randoja



PHOTO BY ELAYNE LODGE

IN THEATRES

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO NEW RELEASES BY INGRID RANDOJA



Sharni Vinson may look good leading *Step Up 3D*'s dancers through a watery number here, but imagine them splashing out in 3D!

Step Up 3D

There was a time when Michael Jackson's "moonwalk" was the height of dance sophistication. Today's dancers now seem to defy the law of gravity, and their mad skillz will be coming right at ya in 3D in this third installment of the *Step Up* series. Luke (**Rick Malambri**) and Natalie (**Sharni Vinson**) lead a crew of New York City dancers against international teams in a global dance jam.

Get Low

Based on a true story, this 1930s drama stars **Robert Duvall** as hermit Felix Bush, who decides he wants to hold his funeral while he's alive so he can find

out what people really think of him — and also to unload a secret that's been haunting him for decades. **Bill Murray** shows up as the shady funeral director who helps organize the huge outdoor shindig, while **Sissy Spacek** plays a widow who loved Bush a long time ago. **See Bill Murray interview, page 24.**

The Other Guys

Forensic detective Gamble (**Will Ferrell**) loves the fact he's tied to his desk, while his partner Hoitz (**Mark Wahlberg**) — a hothead teamed with Gamble as punishment for an embarrassing incident — wants nothing more than to be on New York's mean streets. But Gamble **continued →**



The Other Guys' Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell

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→→→ and Hoitz get their chance to shine when they join the department's reigning supercops (**Dwayne Johnson** and **Samuel L. Jackson**) on a huge case.

Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel

Canadian filmmaker **Brigitte Berman**'s documentary examines *Playboy* founder **Hugh Hefner**'s political activism and charitable side. **See Brigitte Berman interview, page 12.**

Flipped

Stand By Me director **Rob Reiner** returns to the early '60s with this middle-school romantic comedy. While young Juli (**Madeline Carroll**) has loved Bryce (**Callan McAuliffe**) ever since second grade, Bryce has never liked her. But when puberty hits, the tables are turned, and suddenly Bryce has got a thing for her while she, unfortunately, has gone off him like month-old milk.



Madeline Carroll and Callan McAuliffe in *Flipped*

sister. **See Anna Kendrick interview, page 32.**

The Expendables

While girls are off gallivanting with Julia Roberts in *Eat Pray Love*, boys will be snarling with **Sylvester Stallone**, the writer, director and star of this nod to awesome '80s action fare. Sly leads of a band of mercenaries — including **Jason Statham**, **Jet Li** and **Randy Couture** — hired to take down an evil South American general...and then it gets personal. **See Sylvester Stallone interview, page 36.**

The Disappearance of Alice Creed

In this taut thriller, two ex-cons, Danny (**Martin Compston**) and Vic (**Eddie Marsan**), kidnap Alice Creed (**Gemma Arterton**), the daughter of a rich businessman. Their plan to score a huge ransom is dismantled when Alice makes a deal with Vic to double-cross Danny. Let the games begin.

Soul Kitchen

Set in Hamburg, Germany, this comedy finds a struggling restaurateur (**Adam Bousdoukos**) turning to an eccentric chef and some illegal activities to save his establishment. **continued →**

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august



Julia Roberts bikes through Indonesia in *Eat Pray Love*

Eat Pray Love

What happens when a thirtysomething woman discovers she doesn't want kids, divorces her husband, suffers another romantic heartbreak and realizes she is spiritually bereft? If she's writer **Elizabeth Gilbert**, she takes a hefty advance, travels to Italy, India and Indonesia to find herself and pens a best-selling memoir that becomes a Hollywood movie starring **Julia Roberts**. Roberts is joined by cast mates **Billy Crudup** as Gilbert's husband, **James Franco** as her rebound

boyfriend and **Javier Bardem** as the newfound love of her life.

Tales From Earthsea

Goro Miyazaki, the son of legendary Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki, makes his directorial debut with this animated adaptation of **Ursula K. Le Guin's** fantasy series *Earthsea*. Dragons have reappeared in the skies, a drought is killing crops and pestilence is spreading across the land. A wizard and young prince must restore the world's balance before it's too late.

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World

Unabashedly Toronto-centric, *Scott Pilgrim* could finally give Hogtown the cool cred it can never get subbing for New York, Chicago or Anyplace U.S.A. Based on **Bryan Lee O'Malley's** graphic novel, it focuses on Toronto hipster-nerd Scott Pilgrim (**Michael Cera**), who falls for Ramona V. Flowers (**Mary Elizabeth Winstead**) and in order to win her heart must fight her six evil ex-boyfriends — and one ex-girlfriend. Oscar-nominee **Anna Kendrick** plays Scott's

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Taylor Swift
Grammy Winning
Singer/Songwriter

18
august**Vampires Suck**

From the writing/directing team of **Jason Friedberg** and **Aaron Seltzer** (*Date Movie*, *Meet the Spartans*) comes this parody that takes a bite out of vampire flicks, especially the *Twilight* franchise. Look for **Jenn Proske** and **Matt Lanter** as your Bella/Edward clones.

20
augustJerry O'Connell gets eaten in *Piranha 3D***Piranha 3D**

It's *Jaws* meets *Spring Break* as piranhas are unleashed on a lake teeming with drunken co-eds.

The film's nod to *Jaws* includes casting **Richard Dreyfuss** as his *Jaws* character Matt Hooper, who escaped his run-in with the

big shark only to meet a school of hungry piranhas.

Lottery Ticket

Kevin Carson (**Bow Wow**) holds a winning lottery ticket worth a cool \$370-million. Unfortunately, he can't pick up the cash until after the July 4th long weekend, which means he has to fend off greedy friends, family and neighbours looking to get paid.

The Swtich

Kassie Larson's (**Jennifer Aniston**) big mistake was leaving her sperm sample alone with her neurotic best friend Wally (**Jason Bateman**). Kassie plans to get pregnant using the

hunky Roland's (**Patrick Wilson**) sperm, but after Wally accidentally destroys Roland's offering, he replaces it with his own. Seven years later Kassie and her son Sebastian pop back into Wally's life and he's got to find a way to break the news that he's Sebastian's dad.

See **Jason Bateman** interview, page 20.

Nanny McPhee Returns

Emma Thompson reapplies the hairy warts, bulbous nose and buck tooth to play the magical Nanny McPhee, who appears at a British farmhouse during World War II to help discipline five young children who are making life difficult for single parent **Maggie Gyllenhaal**.

**Lebanon**

This award-winning Israeli film takes place in 1982 during the First Lebanon War. A tank containing four inexperienced Israeli soldiers is sent to clean up after a paratrooper attack, but instead finds itself in the middle of an ongoing battle involving innocent civilians.

27
augustFrom left: Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis, Justin Long and Drew Barrymore in *Going the Distance***Going the Distance**

Off-again, on-again real-life couple **Drew Barrymore** and **Justin Long** star in this rom-com about Erin and Garrett, a couple who thought their summer fling in New York City would end. But their chemistry is undeniable, which is why they're determined to make the long-distance relationship thing work after Erin returns home to San Francisco.

The Last Exorcism

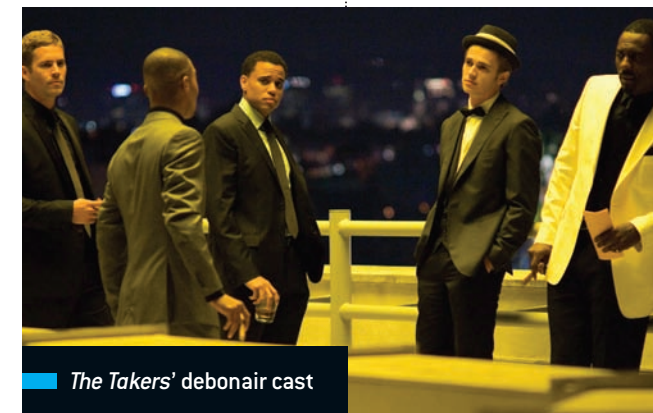
The devil has got something against little girls in white nighties. This horror, shot as a faux documentary, follows preacher Cotton Marcus (**Patrick Fabian**) as he performs his last exorcism on a farmer's daughter (**Ashley Bell**).

Takers

A group of bank robbers — **Idris Elba**, **Paul Walker**, **Hayden Christensen**, **Chris Brown** and

rapper **T.I.** — are planning a massive heist. But they're worried the cop (**Matt Dillon**)

who's been tracking them, and their own infighting, could mess up their perfect job.

The *Takers*' debonair castAshley Bell has a devil of a problem in *The Last Exorcism*SPECIAL
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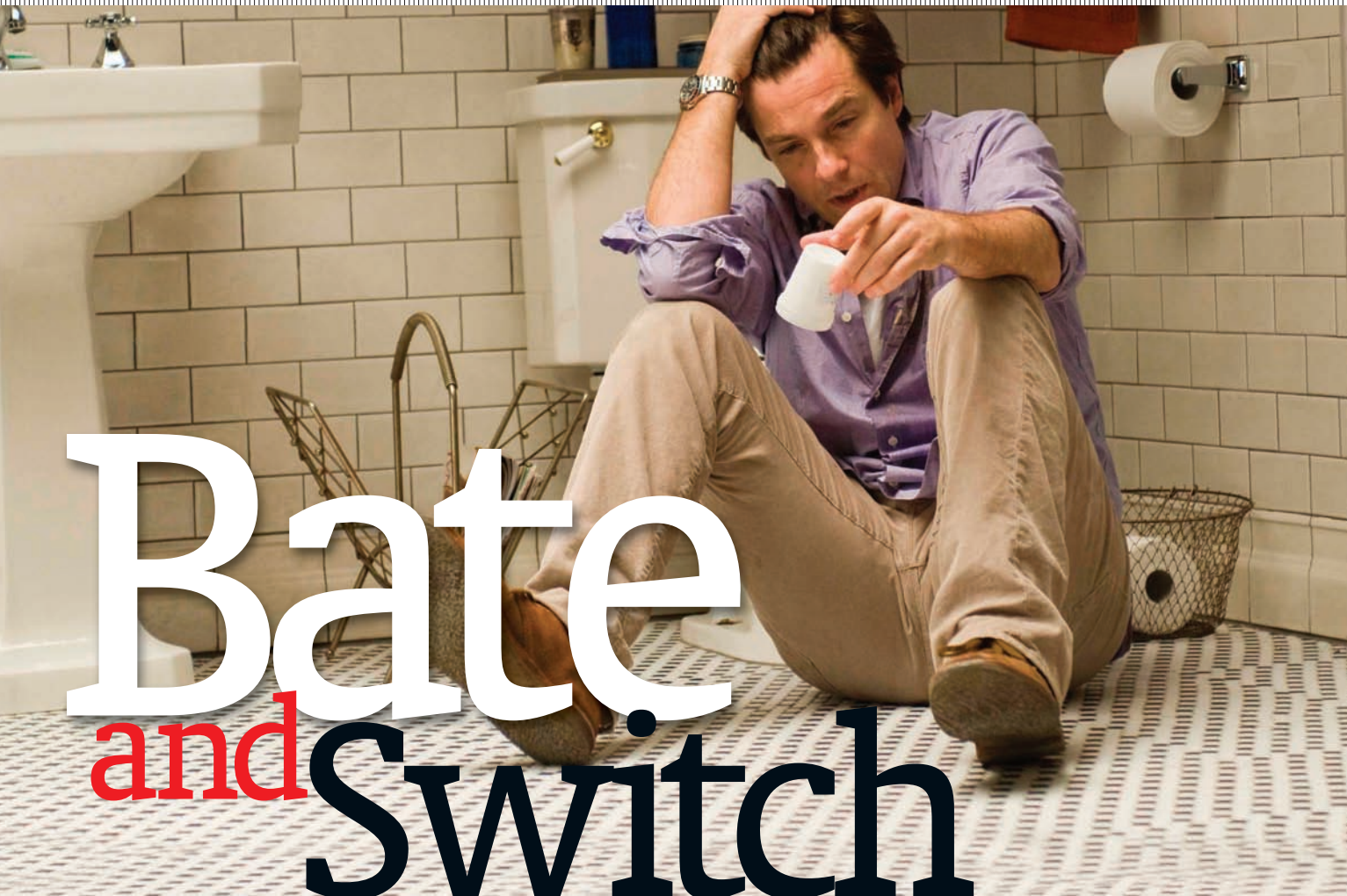
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Jason Bateman finally gets his rom-com, and with Jennifer Aniston no less. So why is he so worried? With a plot about swapping sperm and paternity issues, *The Switch* may not be the easiest sell **BY BOB STRAUSS**

You'd think Jason Bateman would be mighty pleased with himself. After all, he turned around a moribund career as a former child actor (*Little House on the Prairie*, *Silver Spoons*), first with the critically acclaimed TV series *Arrested Development* and then with a string of tasty roles in hit movies such as *Juno*, *Hancock*, *Couples Retreat* and *Up in the Air*. Now 41, he's happily married to actor Amanda Anka, daughter of Canadian music legend Paul Anka, and he regularly makes the entertainment news cycle — two recent examples being the same-sex kiss he shared with Dustin Hoffman after they were caught on the “Kiss Cam” at a Lakers game, and the launch of the viral comedy/advertising company DumbDumb with frequent collaborator Will Arnett. The pair aims to bring Funny or Die type-humour

to corporate campaigns, and kicked things off in June with a short film/advertisement for Orbit gum called “Prom Date,” in which they both starred. Now Bateman's starring in *The Switch* opposite Jennifer Aniston. Only a few years ago, he was just a supporting player in her movie *The Break-Up*. But rather than acting pumped with pride — or falsely humble — about his success, Bateman just seems, well, fretful. Ask the funnyman about the film that could be his big romantic breakthrough, as I did in an interview at a Beverly Hills hotel, and he'll run off a laundry list of self-deprecating concerns. “The script was something I've loved for a few years,” Bateman says. “They tried going after a few of their higher choices, and it finally worked its way down to me. I was happy to get it. “In its original conceit, it was more of a *Beauty and the Beast* type of romantic comedy,” he reveals. “I'm certainly no male model, but going with somebody that's average-looking like me as opposed to a bit more of a booger-eater or mouth-breather, they had to change it a little bit.” Based on Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Jeffrey Eugenides' short story *The Baster*, *The Switch* is about best friends forever Kassie (Aniston) and Wally (Bateman). He's totally in love with her, but can't bring himself to say so. Oblivious, Kassie decides to be artificially inseminated using sperm from a seemingly **continued →**

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Wally (Jason Bateman) and Kassie (Jennifer Aniston) share a moment in *The Switch*

>> **THE SWITCH**
HITS THEATRES
AUGUST 20th

>>> perfect specimen named Roland (Patrick Wilson). In a moment of booze- and drug-addled desperation, Wally commits an astoundingly icky act, destroying Roland's donation and replacing it with his own. He then forgets what he did, and can't admit his mistake to Kassie when the results become evident years later.

That plot has Bateman concerned. "There's some comedy there, but it's not the knee-slapping comedy that I'm sure would make marketing easy," he muses. "There are some challenging plot moments in the movie. After all, she's looking for a sperm donor and I switch my sperm for his. She has my kid and she doesn't know it, so there are some challenging things to navigate there, both in the story and also from a marketing standpoint."

At least *The Switch* has Aniston, one of today's more reliable box-office draws, to bank on. Like Bateman, she grew up in a showbiz household; both her parents were actors. Bateman's dad Kent directed films and television and ran a Hollywood stage company, and his sister Justine was on the long-running sitcom *Family Ties*.

"I've known Jennifer a real long time," Bateman says. "We're great, great friends and get along really well. We didn't know each other as kids, just basically from the start of *Friends*. I was on another show on the same network, so we bumped into each other a lot. We were somewhat in the same circle of friends after that, and it was nice to finally get a chance to work with her. We'd always wanted to."

Apparently it went well enough; Aniston and Bateman are currently making the comedy *Horrible Bosses* together. It should be out next year.

As for *The Switch*'s poor Wally, he's a neurotic pessimist who fits neatly into Bateman's recent filmography. While Bateman understands he's lucky to be where he is right now, he still views his prospects as constricted and precarious.

"I've done other stuff, but I'm usually the straight man in the middle of the storm," Bateman observes. "I'll take a niche; I suppose, by definition, that means you're being constantly employed, which is really sort of the goal. I mean, I'd love longevity in a business that doesn't specialize in that."

"But I would love to do stuff that is character-driven, too, that's sort of antagonistic as opposed to the protagonist. I'll do that when I'm asked. But right now, obviously as a result of *Arrested Development*, sort of being that prototypical straight-man protagonist, sort of victim-type comedy...I'll ride that."

Bateman's toddler daughter Francesca enters the room, fresh from playing in the pool. She sits quietly and contentedly on her father's lap, well-behaved but also, quite obviously, shy. Still, there's a sparkle to her, so I ask dad if he sees her going into the family business.

"I certainly hope not," Bateman says. "Acting is not great for kids. By definition, you're trying to teach yourself how to be somebody that you're not at a time when you're trying to figure out who you are. It's kind of a head trip, even for adults. It's a horrible way to make a living. I've had a great career, and I still don't know where my next job is coming from. You're constantly getting fired, effectively; each time a project's over with, you've got to go out for another job interview."

Bateman is trying to diversify into writing, directing and producing — as he does for *DumbDumb* — for the creative satisfaction but also, as he puts it, to "play in multiple departments in the business as opposed to just waiting for the phone to ring and looking for a part to play."

It doesn't look like the phone will go quiet anytime soon, though, and Bateman is grateful for that. When discussing how things have worked out and where he's at now, he even cracks a bit of a grin. Not a smug one, but a smile nevertheless.

"I feel very fortunate, to say the least, that *Arrested Development* came along," Bateman says. "That was definitely a rebirth, there wasn't much of a heartbeat there before that show. Going through that atrophy has made me appreciate this renewed moment of relevance, and I'm trying to be a little smarter about it this time." ■

Bob Strauss lives in L.A. where he writes about movies and filmmakers.

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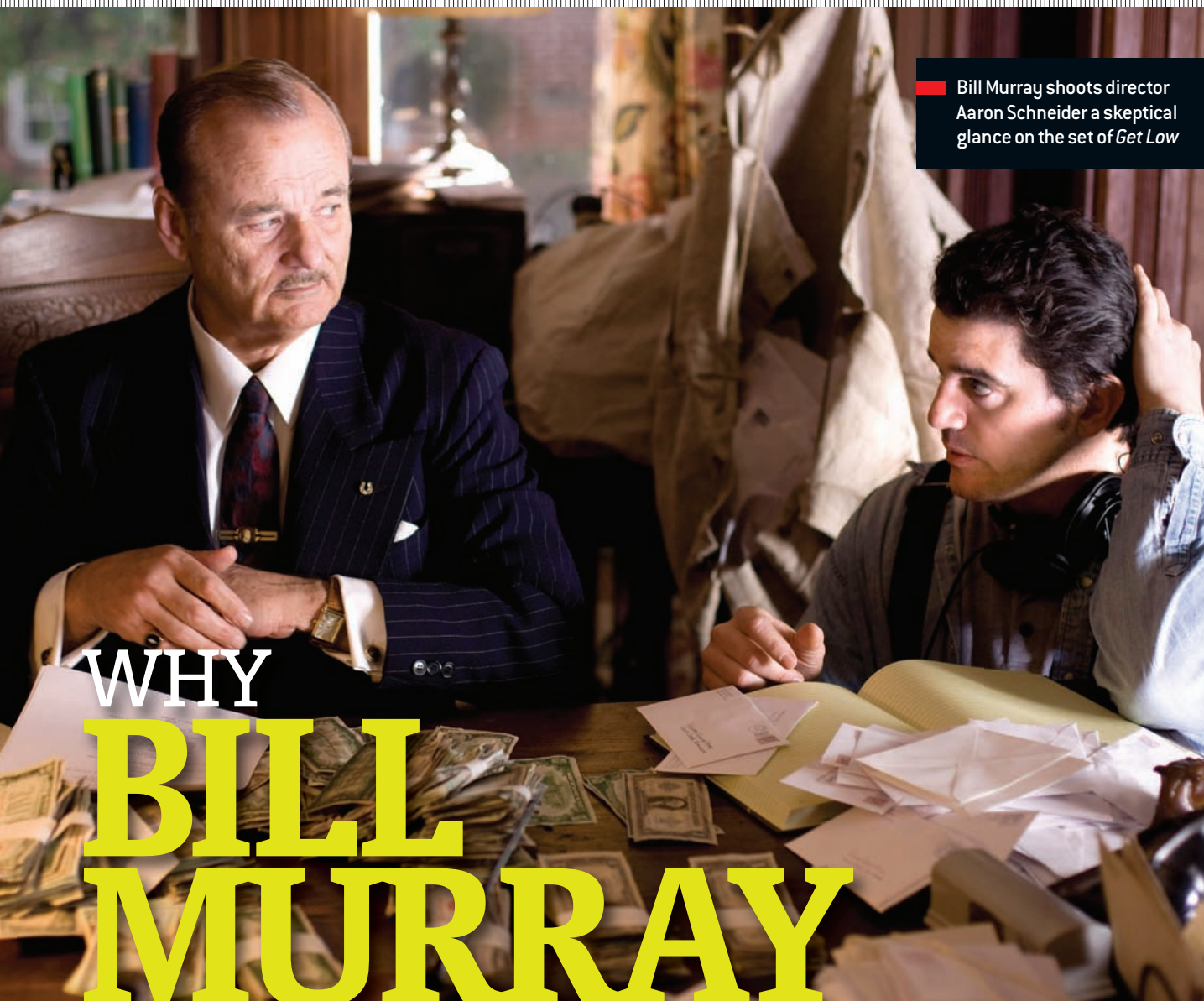
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Bill Murray shoots director Aaron Schneider a skeptical glance on the set of *Get Low*

WHY BILL MURRAY WON'T RETURN YOUR CALLS

The increasingly eccentric actor explains why he doesn't have an agent, isn't signing a contract, won't talk about acting, has no time for publicists, and is fascinated by his complicated character in the Depression-era indie *Get Low* **BY RON DICKER**

Bill Murray makes filmmakers squirm by making himself scarce. Living proudly off the Hollywood grid, he also makes them happy when he shows up. Take this month's *Get Low*. Murray plays Frank Quinn, a boozy funeral home director who accepts a wad of cash from town outcast Felix Bush (Robert Duvall) to host the man's funeral while he is still alive. Most of his life, Bush

has been dogged by vile stories emanating from a skeleton in his closet, and he wants the situation to be resolved. Meanwhile, Frank juggles morality and profitability, as many did during the period when the film takes place, the Great Depression. Murray acquits himself with the usual deadpan aplomb in rookie director Aaron Schneider's indie. But he sure made the producers sweat. In this age of instant communication, Murray is a latter-day Howard Hughes. He has no agent, no **continued >**

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“I’m not signing a contract,” says Murray. “My word is my word. I’m showing up for work”

→→→ manager, no publicist and no official business phone. The only way to reach him is through an upstate New York P.O. Box and an L.A.-based lawyer who occasionally fields calls. Other than divorces (two), Murray doesn’t seem to have much use for a lawyer. He finds official work agreements, well, insulting.

“I’m not signing a contract,” he says. “My word is my word. I’m showing up for work.”

Imagine how this sat with *Get Low* producer Dean Zanuck. Zanuck’s father, Richard, and grandfather, Darryl, ran Twentieth Century Fox. The lad grew up in a family used to getting its way. Still, he had to wait and wonder like all the rest who dealt with Murray before him.

The film’s most prominent investor agreed to subsidize a substantial \$5.5-million (U.S.) of the \$7.5-million budget with one caveat: that Murray scribble his signature on a contract. Zanuck had mentioned Murray to lure backers when the actor expressed interest



From left: Robert Duvall, Lucas Black and Bill Murray consult at the barber shop in *Get Low*

after reading Chris Provenzano and C. Gaby Mitchell’s script and watching Schneider’s Oscar-winning short, *Two Soldiers* (2003). (All arrived by mail and Murray took his time in responding.) Zanuck explained to the investor that Murray felt contracts were bad luck.

“We were in so deep at this point,” Zanuck confides. “We started to see that if he didn’t do the movie, it was going to fall apart.”

Another agonizing six months of sparse communication followed by snail mail. The shoot date crept closer. Finally, Murray showed up on set when the cameras were ready to roll. In this interview at a Manhattan hotel, Murray snickers at the “bureaucrats” who insist on contracts. He isn’t a fan of agents either. He parted ways with his agent when the agent’s assistant kept calling him and, when he didn’t answer, refused to hang up. “Why would I ever want to talk to anyone who would let the phone ring 90 times?” he asks.

The 59-year-old Wilmette, Illinois, native earned his independence by supplying more than three decades of populist, often goofball, entertainment. Hits such as *Caddyshack* (1980) and *Groundhog Day* (1993) made him a movie star. *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001) and *Lost in Translation* (2003), for which he received a Best Actor Oscar nomination, fuelled a comeback.

Get Low keeps Murray in that more serious vein as he plays a complicated character who, the actor admits, took some figuring out. “What has he done with his life and what about his regrets and how can he change the sort of behaviour that’s made him the kind of guy who would take a long car ride with all the money in the car and think about maybe not coming back, and yet he can’t give up on

[himself] yet?” Murray says of the conflicted Frank Quinn.

The analysis ends there. Comic relief comes a bit easier. As he often does, Murray kept the set loose, according to Sissy Spacek, who plays a mystery figure from Felix Bush’s past. She recalls Murray’s critique of her Depression hairdo. “Every time I would come out of makeup after four hours of sitting under a hairdryer, Bill would say, ‘Hey Grandma!’”

Strasberg he isn’t, either. Even with a pair of Academy Award winners like Duvall and Spacek with whom to exchange lines, Murray resists conversation about craft. “Talk is for losers,” he says. “Shut up and work. Turn the camera on. Let’s go.”

As Murray points out, he began his dramatic training a generation ago as a sketch player on *Saturday Night Live*, experience which he says helps him bring every character to life. “A film script is in two dimensions and it doesn’t take into account the third dimension, so when you actually do it in space there’s a different thing that happens that you can’t write on a page. So that’s what being trained in improvisation does for you. It enables you to go from, ‘This is happening in space now. How do I get from this moment to this moment?’”

Speaking of Murray’s illustrious past, what of those rumours of a third *Ghostbusters* movie?

The actor says when the scuttlebutt emerged, he joked he would do it if he got killed off in the first reel. Then someone actually wrote a script granting his wish — in which he comes back later as a ghost. Buzz grew faster than a chorus of vuvuzelas at a World Cup



HE’LL SIGN ONTO THIS CAST

He won’t sign a contract, but he will sign your cast. Bill Murray autographs the cast of wheelchair-bound Judy Platt during the 15th Annual Poetry Walk Across Brooklyn Bridge which took place recently in New York City.

match, then retreated into silence again. “So it’s just kind of a dreamy thing,” he says.

His next project will probably arrive by mail any day now. Here’s hoping the filmmakers don’t expect a quick reply — or a contract.

Says Murray: “As far as the jobs go, I sort of realized a long time ago that I’m just going to do the ones I like and one of them is going to hit.” ■

Ron Dicker is a New York-based writer who covers movies and filmmakers.

the Eat Pray Love Tour

Loved the book? Can't wait for the movie? Ready for the *trip*? We give you the inside scoop on some of the settings and people featured in **Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat Pray Love***

♦ BY MARNI WEISZ

It's ironic that *Eat Pray Love*, a book about Elizabeth Gilbert's very personal journey to recover from divorce and find herself, has caused tourism booms in the places she writes about. Although Gilbert has encouraged people to find their own paths to self-revelation, it's clear that many are more comfortable travelling in her footsteps. According to an article in *The Jakarta Post*, in 2009 Bali enjoyed a 13 percent increase in tourism vs. just one year before, which the paper largely attributes to *Eat Pray Love*.

Like Gilbert, we encourage seekers to find their souls in places unique to them, but who's going to listen to us? So here are some fascinating facts about the people and places Gilbert encountered in her "I, I, I" of Italy, India and Indonesia.

Eat ITALY

Gilbert goes to Italy to learn Italian — and eat. Perhaps her most transcendent culinary experience comes during a trip to Naples, where an Italian friend has sent her to Pizzeria da Michele (**Damichale.net**) with the instructions, "If you do not eat this pizza when you are in Naples, please lie to me later and tell me that you did." The actual pizzeria was used in the movie.

What Liz wrote about Pizzeria da Michele in *Eat Pray Love*:

"Pizzeria da Michele is a small place with only two rooms and one non-stop oven.... They have only two varieties of pizza here — regular and extra cheese. None of this new age southern California olives-and-sundried-tomato wannabe pizza twaddle. The dough, it takes me half of my meal to figure out, tastes more like Indian nan than like any pizza dough I've ever tried. It's soft and chewy and yielding, but incredibly thin.... Thin, doughy, strong, gummy, yummy, chewy, salty pizza paradise. On top, there is a sweet tomato sauce that foams up all bubbly and creamy when it melts the fresh buffalo mozzarella, and the one sprig of basil in the middle of the whole deal somehow infuses the entire pizza with herbal radiance."

What contributors wrote about Pizzeria da Michele on **Tripadvisor.com**:

"I loved it! I went to Da Michele last October when I was on a cruise. It was one of the hi-lights of my trip to Europe. I had read *Eat Pray Love* and decided I must find this pizzeria. I took a cab and had the driver wait for me.... There was no wait at the pizzeria I went right in, there were only a couple locals sitting inside at the time. I ordered my

Clockwise from left: Julia Roberts as Elizabeth Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love*; Roberts in Italy; the mouth-watering pizza at Pizzeria da Michele



pizza, a medium margarita. It was ready in about 5 minutes! I took the pizza back to the ship and devoured it! I was skeptical at first because I typically order meat lovers pizza — the Da Michele pizza was almost a religious experience!"

—**idgalpal, Boise, Idaho**

"Don't believe the hype. Sorry to all the 'Pizza Purists' but even the tastiest pizzas [and the ones here were okay] are not worth queuing in a Napoli sidestreet for. This place may be historic, but totally lacks atmosphere and finesse, shunting tourists through like cattle. A basic restaurant with forgettable pizza. Find yourself a nice little trattoria where you can linger and enjoy your lunch instead."

—**SeasonedTraveller70, London, England**

"I still think about this pizza. I didn't really like Naples, but I would go back there just for the pizza at L'Antica Pizzeria Da Michele. The price was great, no complaints about the service. It's been four months since my trip but I still think about how great that pizza was."

—**Crucio, Calgary, Alberta**

Pray INDIA

Gilbert hasn't disclosed the name of the ashram where she meditated and met god in the Pray portion of *Eat Pray Love*, but it's widely believed to be the Gurudev Siddha Peeth at Ganeshpuri. There's info about their one-week retreats (the type for which Gilbert served as "Key Hostess," or "yogic cruise director" during her stay) at **Siddhayoga.org.in**.

But the movie wasn't shot at Gurudev Siddha Peeth, opting instead for Ashram Hari Mandir (**Ashramharimandir.org**), which was closer to the New Delhi airport and so more convenient for the cast and crew.

Unfortunately, since prayer is the point of this section of the story, some locals were perturbed to find they were locked out of their temple for security reasons during filming.

A story in the *Thaindian News* quotes a 21-year-old worshipper, "I am going to barge in anyhow for the evening *aarti*. Let me see who stops me. What is it that they are shooting that we cannot even enter our own temple?"

continued →



Top: Ashram Hari Mandir, where the movie was shot. Bottom: Roberts and her elephant friend



On-screen couple Javier Bardem and Julia Roberts. Inset: Real-life couple Elizabeth Gilbert and José Nunes

Love INDONESIA

Yes, Gilbert fell in love with a Brazilian man in Bali, Indonesia — she calls him Felipe in the book, his real name is José Nunes. But she also fell in love with two locals, the medicine man Ketut Liyer and a healer named Wayan Nuriyasih...despite the fact both took advantage of her in their own ways. You too can be taken advantage of by the real Ketut and Wayan, who are happily making time for tourists on the *Eat Pray Love* pilgrimage. (Tripadvisor.com has some great, and very honest, user reviews for both.)

Las Vegas-based Spirit Quest Tours (Spiritquesttours.com) has even organized a weeklong trip to Bali based on *Eat Pray Love*. For about \$3,000 (U.S.), the “Eat, Pray & Love in Bali” tour includes a reading by the real Ketut Liyer, a vitamin lunch at Wayan’s restaurant, meditation and yoga practice, massage and reflexology, airfare, and accommodations in an eco-friendly hotel in Ubud, the small town at the centre of the book’s final section.

The company’s website encourages you to bring your own copy of *Eat Pray Love* to be autographed by Ketut, who, in the book, repeatedly asks Gilbert to recommend him to her friends because, as he says, “I am very empty in the bank.” No word whether there’s an extra charge for the signature. **Q**



A bike parked in front of Ketut Liyer’s home

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ANNA
KENDRICK

SHOWS SUPPORT

First in the *Twilight* movies, then with an Oscar-nominated performance in *Up in the Air*, and now as Michael Cera's sister in the Toronto-set *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, **Anna Kendrick** is getting a lot of attention for her supporting roles ➡ BY BOB STRAUSS

In *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, mild-mannered funnyman Michael Cera uncharacteristically kicks the stuffing out of seven of his lady love's exes.

The Beanpole from Brampton dutifully trained in mixed fighting disciplines and assorted other skills for the movie's unique battle scenes. But one question remains: Can Cera hold his own against Anna Kendrick?

After all, the formidable American "It Girl" has a certain unbeatable quality about her. Kendrick, who turns 25 this month, earned an Academy Award nomination for her work in last year's *Up in the Air*, is a regular in the blockbuster *Twilight* movie franchise and is one of the youngest people ever nominated for a Tony Award (she was 12).

Plus she specializes in playing supersmart, Type-A personalities, just the kind of person who can destroy a Toronto slacker like Scott with her withering words. Which makes Kendrick the perfect choice to play Scott's sarcastic sister, Stacey.

"I basically just judge Scott for all of his life choices and tell him how to live, which was fun," Kendrick says of her character during a Beverly Hills interview. "But I care about him, too."

"Anna's really great," Cera says. "We didn't do a lot of scenes together — she's mostly telling me what I should be doing over the phone — but she was a lot of fun. She's really good for that part."

"Michael's a sweetheart," Kendrick graciously lobs back. "He's just what you'd hoped that he would be, unassuming and just so sweet you almost want to give him a hug every time you look at him. There's something almost Southern about him; I know he's from Canada, but he's so laid-back. He's, like, a relaxing person to be around."

The film is based on Canadian cartoonist Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic novel. Many presume that Stacey Pilgrim is a thinly veiled version of the artist's own sister, also named Stacey.

Kendrick says maybe, maybe not so much. "I got to meet the real Stacey Pilgrim, which was amazing," she recalls.

"Stacey Lee O'Malley is half-Asian, so we're not exactly the same," she explains. "She seemed really, really sweet. I was like, 'You got a bad rap in these books!' But she did say that she used to give Bryan a really hard time about whoever he was dating. So that's where that came from."

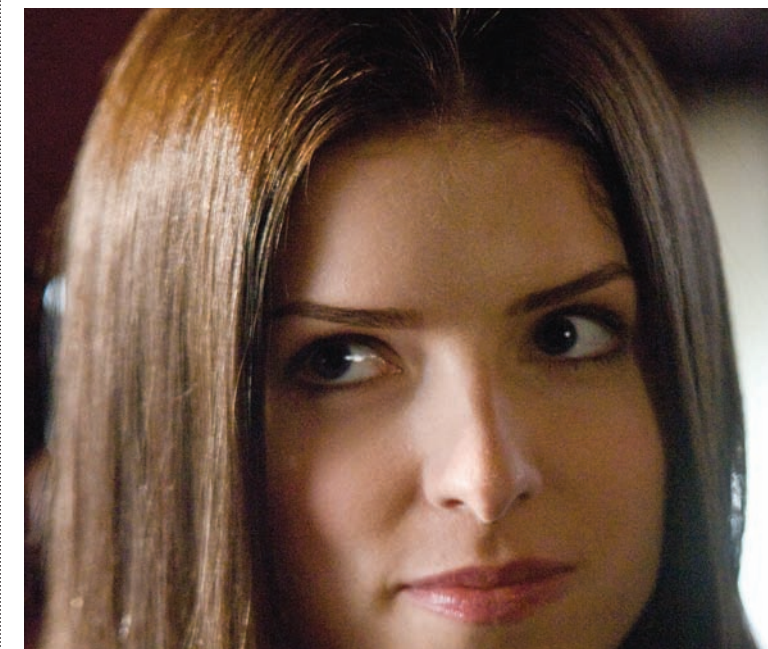
Directed by wry English prankster Edgar Wright (*Shaun of the Dead*, *Hot Fuzz*), the *Pilgrim* movie reportedly boasts some of the most bizarre action sequences seen in years. "It was all really, really cleverly done," Cera confirms. "Bill Pope shot the movie, and he was the cinematographer for *The Matrix* and *Spider-Man* [2]. So it's going to look really cool."

Kendrick, true to her nature, describes the film's prospects with a bit more intensity.

"All the boys are gonna geek out so hard when this movie comes out," she says. "It's hard to describe tonally, but it's like if Ferris Bueller had to kung fu fight a ton of characters. It would seem absolutely surreal, but that would be the kind of beauty of it."

"You should start emotionally preparing yourself now. People are not going to know what hit them, I've never seen anything like it. I think it's going to make the fastest movie you've ever seen look like a Merchant Ivory film."

continued ➡



>> **SCOTT PILGRIM
VS. THE WORLD**
HITS THEATRES
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Anna Kendrick as Stacey Pilgrim
Left: From left, Michael Cera,
Kendrick, KJartan Hewitt and
Mary Elizabeth Winstead

“All the boys are gonna geek out so hard when this movie comes out,” says Kendrick. “It’s like if Ferris Bueller had to kung fu fight a ton of characters. It would seem absolutely surreal, but that would be the kind of beauty of it”

→→→ Perhaps if she were from England and not from Maine, Kendrick would have fit into those talky Merchant Ivory films quite smartly. As a child, she bugged her bewildered parents — mom’s an accountant, dad was a teacher who’s now in the banking business — to drive her to and from New York auditions. It paid off when, at age 12, she became the second youngest person ever nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in a revival of *High Society*.

Little Anna’s self-possessed nature would later work brilliantly on screen in *Rocket Science*, in which she played the motor-mouthed manipulator of a high school debate team captain, and then as George Clooney’s high-strung nemesis in last year’s *Up in the Air*.

According to Kendrick, those sharp and confident girls are where the acting really comes in these days.

“I think I was more ambitious as a child,” she muses. “Things seem more possible, there’s a sense of invincibility when you’re a child. Insecurity too, but there’s this feeling that you can get what you want. I’ve gotten a little more timid as I’ve gotten older.”

Hear that, guys? You shouldn’t be afraid to approach her, no matter how intimidating she appears on screen.

“I feel like I’m so shy in real life that I can’t imagine that perception would last very long,” she says. “I think women are more intimidated, or for longer, because they see that underlying strength, maybe. But guys? Not that I’m aware of, anyway. I don’t really think of myself as a man-eater.”

Another plus: she spends a lot of time in Canada. After shooting *Pilgrim* in Toronto and two *Twilight* entries in B.C., Kendrick recently returned to Vancouver for the as-yet-untitled Seth Rogen cancer comedy. As of this writing, it was uncertain whether the last two installments of the *Twilight* saga would be filmed in B.C. as well. And since Kendrick’s character, Bella Swan’s human sidekick Jessica Stanley, doesn’t do much in the *Breaking Dawn* novel the movies will be based on, how

much of a role, if any, she’ll have in them is also a question mark.

“The thing about playing a non-vampire/non-werewolf is that people don’t care about you,” Kendrick says with a shrug, seeming unconcerned. “But that means they leave you alone. It’s quite nice, actually.”

And while it’s not likely to add to her collection of nominations, Kendrick probably wouldn’t mind if *Scott Pilgrim* turned into a franchise as well, even if her role is just a supporting one. There are six books in the series, after all.

“I don’t necessarily have to feel like I know Stacey Pilgrim inside and out,” Kendrick says of her role within the ensemble. “It’s nice to work from a place where it’s, like, what’s her voice, what’s her rhythm, what’s her physicality. I probably couldn’t tell you the psychological inner workings of Stacey Pilgrim, but it’s so fun to work from a place where you just feel like a contributor. You’re there to fit the tone or make a comedic scene work.”

Bob Strauss lives in L.A. where he writes about movies and filmmakers.

Toronto GETS A CLOSE-UP

When choosing locations for *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, director Edgar Wright took his cues from Bryan Lee O’Malley’s comic books, which are set in very specific Toronto locales — both famous and not so famous. If you see the movie, look out for these places:

Casa Loma, the University of Toronto’s Beta Theta Pi House, Sonic Boom record store on Bloor St., the Goodwill on St. Clair Ave., Lee’s Palace, homes on Alberta Ave. (where O’Malley used to live), Queen St. between Spadina and Portland, and the former Canary Grill on Cherry St. —MW



From left: Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Johnny Simmons, Ellen Wong, Alison Pill and Mark Webber in a scene shot at Toronto’s Lee’s Palace

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TALK ABOUT A STRONG CAST

Arnold. Bruce. Dolph. Jet. Mickey. While there may not be many Oscar nominations among them (though there are a few), the sheer muscle power **Sylvester Stallone** amassed for his unapologetic blow-'em-up *The Expendables* has action fans in a tizzy

BY INGRID RANDOJA

>> **THE EXPENDABLES**
HITS THEATRES
AUGUST 13th

In 1999, during an appearance on TV's *Inside the Actors Studio*, Sylvester Stallone told host James Lipton and everyone watching that he was through making action movies.

He should have known better.

In 2008, Stallone returned to the genre to make *Rambo*, the fourth pic in his notoriously violent and hugely popular John Rambo series.

And now, at age 64, he straps on the guns and flak jacket for *The Expendables*, the summer's throwback '80s action pic starring not only Stallone, but old-timey action stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis (together in an extended cameo), Dolph Lundgren, Eric Roberts, Mickey Rourke, and relative newbie action performers Jason Statham, Jet Li, Randy Couture and Steve Austin.

Stallone also co-wrote and directs the film about a group of mercenaries who head to South America to dispose of a brutal dictator. It's Stallone's writing skills — he penned *Rocky* and 18 other movies — and directing chops (eight films to date) that set him apart from Hollywood's pantheon of pumped-up stars.

We spoke with a thoughtful Stallone on the line from L.A. And don't be fooled by the mumbling delivery and droopy face (the result of a doctor using forceps on him during birth), Stallone is bright, and surprisingly candid, discussing his long career as an action star.

Q: First off, how is your neck? You broke it during filming.

A: "Yeah. I had some bone splinters already, so what happened was when Steve clobbered me and I snapped my head back, it bruised my spinal cord and drove a sliver into the spinal column. It was pretty bad, my legs and arms went numb. But what was really bad was that the doctor kept saying if you fall or if you trip, and it goes any further in, you could be a quadriplegic. I said, 'Are you kidding me, don't tell me that!' They wanted to shut down the movie but

continued →



1980s action stars reunite for *The Expendables*. From top: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Dolph Lundgren and Mickey Rourke. Bottom picture, from left: Sylvester Stallone, Jet Li, Randy Couture, Terry Crew and Jason Statham

Mickey Rourke inks Sly in *The Expendables*

→→→ I said, 'I can't, I'll never get this group back together.' So as soon as we wrapped the film, I had to go into surgery."

Q: Was it a hard shoot all around?

A: "It was warfare, I couldn't believe how difficult this film was just from a technical standpoint. It was so complex 'cause all the actors needed their moments and we didn't have a huge budget, and how do I keep pushing these fellows, seriously, a minimum of 18 hours a day? Guys are collapsing, there are injuries."

Q: How did you assemble the cast? Did you call them and say, "Hey guys, I got this great idea for an old-school action movie?"

A: "At first it was just me, Jet and Jason. Then I went with Randy and Steve, men who were celebrities in the wrestling world but who really had not been seen much in the filmic world."

Q: And then you landed the big fish — Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis.

A: "That was a shot in the dark. I thought, boy I have this one situation in the beginning which lights the fuse, starts the mission, and even though it's an enlarged cameo it would great. Arnold and I are probably never going to work together, and Bruce, it would be rare, so I just started to pursue it. It took months and months because of their busy schedules — but I couldn't believe it, they agreed. I went, 'Whoa, this is fantastic.' And they did it for free."

Q: Really?

A: "Yes, they did it for free on their own time. The minute we wrapped, Arnold was back in Sacramento and Bruce was on a plane to Turkey. We literally only had three and a half hours to do it. We did it in a church at 4 o'clock on a Saturday morning so Arnold wouldn't catch any flack for working on state time."

Q: You're looking pretty ripped in the film. How hard is it to get into shape in your 60s?

A: "It gets more difficult as you get older because of the wear and tear on the joints, so you have to readjust the types of workouts and be a little more scientific. And I had actually gotten too big on the last *Rambo*, I was, 'What was I thinking.' I said to my wife, 'When were you going to tell me I was gigantic?' So on this film I had to cut back about 25 pounds and that took a little bit of work, a major diet change."

Q: Do you think you suffered from body dysmorphia, where you start losing perspective on what your body actually looks like?

A: "No doubt about it. No doubt. There's no question in *Rambo* I thought, 'Well, I look okay,' and then when I saw myself outside the *Rambo* set, standing next to normal people, I thought, 'My god man, you've become the beast from the east. What happened, you're not meant to be 220 pounds.' I'm meant to be 170."

Q: What do you weigh right now?

A: "I'm 175."

Q: It seems like *The Expendables* was made for your fans. They love the vintage Sly, and this is the movie they want to see you in.

A: "I'm hoping for that. For many, many years there was a sense of being — almost, like, self-conscious — about this so-called action genre. Then I thought, 'Why?' I should be so happy because it's just modern mythology, it's *The Hero's Journey*, it's Joseph Campbell. If it's done right it's wonderful. Ever since I was a kid I've loved Steve Reeves as Hercules, and how he overcomes overwhelming odds, and I've still yet to outgrow that." 

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Famous.

The Day Dolph Almost Killed Sly

The broken neck at the hands of Steve Austin on *The Expendables* set wasn't the first time Sylvester Stallone almost died after a blow from a fellow actor. In fact, another of Sly's *Expendables* co-stars almost took his life 25 years ago.

Stallone cast old friend and *Rocky* IV boxing adversary Dolph Lundgren as a double-crossing mercenary in the new film. And out of the entire cast, it's Lundgren who shares the most powerful bond with Stallone — having almost killed him during the Vancouver filming of the 1985 *Rocky* pic.

"The night before shooting the boxing scene I had seen a very famous fight between Marvin Hagler and Tommy Hearns. These two consummate fighters hated each other so much they literally forgot all kinds of technique and just attacked each other viciously. It was an extraordinarily fight. So I said, 'Dolph, I know we choreographed a lot of this but what I want you to do is come out for the first 30 seconds and just try and knock me out, really go for it. I'll slip and block and do the best I can, but don't hold back on me.' That was a really bad suggestion on my behalf," says Stallone.

"So he caught me an uppercut in my chest, and that night I thought, 'Boy, I'm having a hard time breathing.' So I go to the hospital — they thought I was in a car accident. The next thing I know I'm on a low altitude flight from Vancouver to St. John's hospital in Santa Monica and in intensive care. We shut down filming for nine days while I recovered." —JR



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The Bright Student

Back-to-school trends

BY LIZA HERZ

Fall is coming. A time for reflection and quiet. A time for rich natural colours — a time for... uh, no. Forget it. Just because it's back-to-school season doesn't automatically mean we're going to ditch our love of bright, cheery colours and switch to muddy earth tones. Not yet, anyway.

Here's a plan. Let's keep the bright colours of spring and summer going into fall and we can act as if it's summer all the time. Deal?

This year's coolest back-to-school essentials come in an array of eye-popping shades in everything from USB keys (2 gigs worth of photos, word files, audio files, whatever), a phone that let's you organize your myriad friends, and key makeup items to get you out the door looking sparkly and done with no fuss.

Our Old Navy model bridges the seasons perfectly by layering a fall sweater over a summery microfloral blouse, pairing socks with sandals (a look best attempted only by daring fashion fans) and finishing off with a cord miniskirt that, come fall, will look totally at home with a pair of slouchy boots and thick, cozy tights. Colourful ones, of course.

Bold pink and fuchsia random-width stripes reinvigorate a preppy classic (**Stripe Vee Sweater**, \$30, **Floral Long-Sleeve Oxford**, \$30, **Cord Pleated Mini**, \$30, **Small Canvas Hand Bag**, \$18, all Old Navy).



Stay organized, but in an ironic way, with these colourful and wittily labeled **Knock Knock Spiral-Bound Notebooks** (\$4 to \$8, Indigo).



Be on time in style with the limited edition Bollywood cartoon "**Charmingly Beautiful**" Watch (\$120, swatch.com for stores) from Indian fashion star Manish Arora.



With its curved brush and fibre-rich formula, **Maybelline's The Falsies Mascara** (\$9, drugstores) gives you the kind of thick fringe you'd otherwise only get with false eyelashes.



No longer is skimpy hair a life sentence. New **Pantene Fine Hair Solutions Root Lifter Spray Gel** (\$6, drugstores) gives limp locks "tooth" for styles with body and movement.



Keep all your essential projects on an **Omnitech 2 GB USB Key** (\$15, Staples) with enough room for homework and at least half a *Twilight* movie.



The **Toronto Tote** (\$248, Roots) is roomy enough for all your gear and comes with a thick shoulder strap so your arm won't die when you carry your laptop.



Add some sparkle to the everyday. **Nicole by OPI** limited edition **Gossip Girl Nail Lacquer** (\$11, Walmart) in **Nicole...Spotted!** is the shimmering blue-green colour of a mermaid's tail.



Finally. **Green Beaver Splendid Lips** (\$7, greenbeaver.com for stores) moisturizes with cranberry and carrot oil, is certified organic and contains no synthetic dyes, silicones or parabens.



The **LG Breeze Phone** (\$49 with a three year plan, Telus) uses avatar alerts to keep track of your friends, and has a huge touch screen and full keyboard for easy texting.

MUSIC MAKERS

Your first official taste of Sweet Thing.
Plus, T-Pain brings good luck ♦ BY INGRID RANDOJA



Singers On Screen

Grammy-winning rap artist **T-PAIN**'s larger-than-life personality and comedic flair are put to good use in *Lottery Ticket*, which casts him as the store clerk who sells the film's star Bow Wow a winning lottery ticket worth a cool \$370-million.



DANCE TRANCE

Sweet Thing will make you dance this summer, even if it's against your will.

The Toronto band releases its self-titled debut CD August 17th and in its first single, "Dance Mother,"

singer/guitarist Nick Rose swears "I don't want to dance mother#@**\$, but you give me no choice," while the song's infectious beats beg him, and the rest of us, to get on the floor and stomp. It's a silly, but completely awesome, song.

"There was some talk amongst ourselves that it was too stupid," says bassist Morgan Waters, "but no, you gotta be bold,

brave; and pop music is sometimes more about what sticks in your head."

"That's the exciting thing about pop music," adds Rose, "you can bring everyone on board with your dumbness — if it's catchy enough."

The two musicians are sitting in EMI's Toronto offices, the band signed with the label some three years ago. Since then, they've been writing songs, touring and prepping their first CD of happy-go-lucky angst rock.

"A lot of classic pop songs sound happy, but if you listen to the lyrics they are really sad, and that's a nice dichotomy," says

Waters. "Our song 'Over Me' sounds like a classic pop song, it's really upbeat, but we're really celebrating being a loser. There's something really freeing and fun about that."

"And," adds Rose, "Judd Apatow has made a killing off of that."



YOU GOTTA READ THIS

Nine Inch Nails' Pretty Hate Machine 33 1/3 is the latest in the critically acclaimed *33 1/3* book series that dissects the minutiae behind the making of a seminal album. Author Daphne Carr breaks down NIN's influential 1989 debut *Pretty Hate Machine*, which NIN's founder Trent Reznor cobbled together while working as a janitor in a New York City recording studio. Look for the book to hit shelves August 19th.

OUT THIS MONTH

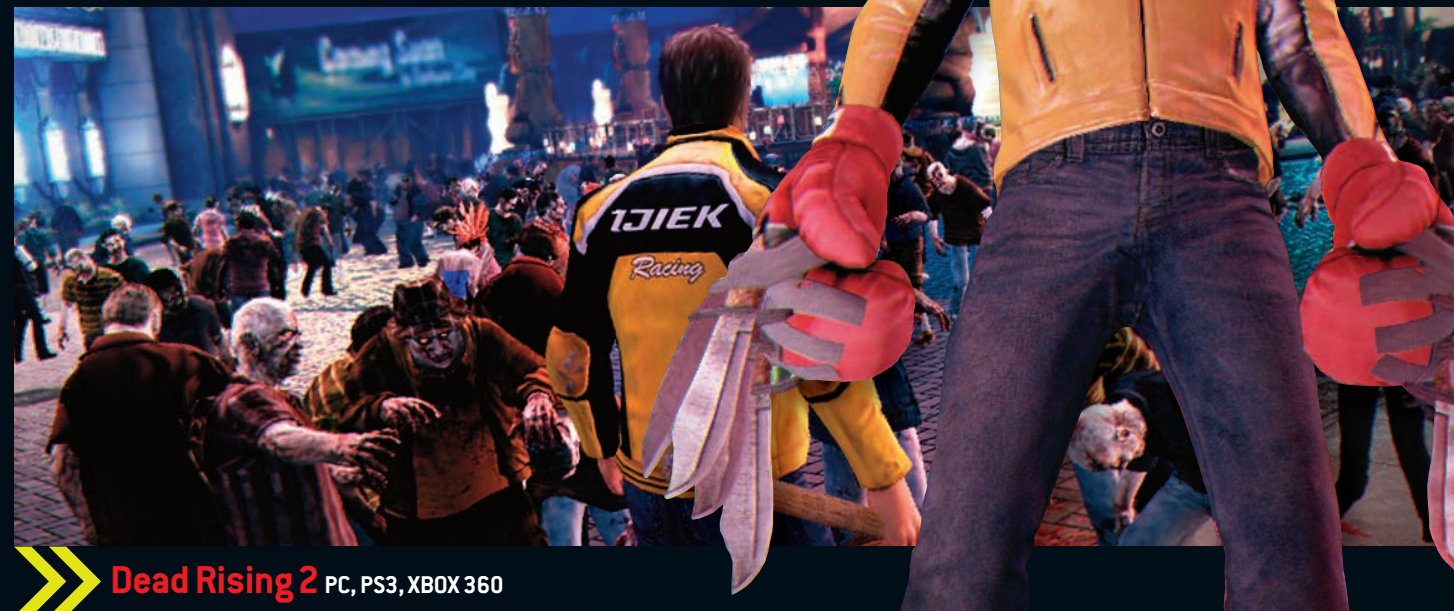
AUGUST 3 → Arcade Fire - *The Suburbs* → Katie Melua - *The House*
AUGUST 10 → Sarah Blasko - *As Day Follows Night*
 → Gasoline Silver - *Gasoline Silver*
AUGUST 17 → Iron Maiden - *Final Frontier* → T.I. - *King Uncaged*
AUGUST 24 → Katy Perry - *Teenage Dream*
 → Fitz & the Tantrums - *Picking Up the Pieces*

Go to HMV.ca for more information

HOTPLAY

Those pesky zombies are still at it in *Dead Rising 2*

♦ BY SCOTT GARDNER



Dead Rising 2 PC, PS3, XBOX 360

The ultimate retail therapy, 2006's *Dead Rising* saw regular folks stranded in a shopping mall, trying to survive a zombie apocalypse.

Facing the putrefying hordes, literally any object could be used for bludgeoning, shredding or even setting 'em ablaze. It was scary, often funny and hugely satisfying.

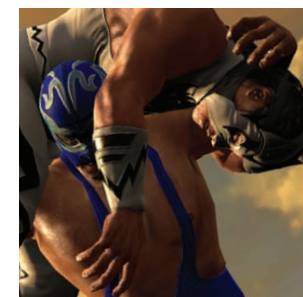
In *Dead Rising 2*, zombies are now a fact of life, but the threat is under control, even blasé. So blasé that every week millions tune in to *Terror is Reality* — a TV game show where contestants win cash by slaughtering waves of undead, with points for creativity and style.

Things get interesting when a faded motocross champion named Chuck Greene arrives in glitzy, sinful Fortune City, and tries his luck on the show. But somehow — did you see this coming? — there's another outbreak, filling the casinos, hotels and theatres of Las Vegas...er, Fortune City, with thousands of moaning, groaning, flesh-hungry ghouls.

Like the first game, you need to survive 72 hours (six, in real time), until help arrives. Luckily, Fortune City offers a wealth of weapons from croupier sticks to stuffed marlins.

There's also a new system for combining items. With ingenuity and a roll of duct tape, a water gun and a can of gasoline becomes a flamethrower, a rake wired to a car battery creates a zombie zapper, a stick of dynamite and a football... you get the idea. It's gonna be a wild ride — especially after Chuck straps chainsaws to his motorcycle and roars into the sea of undead tourists lurching down the Strip.

► RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 31

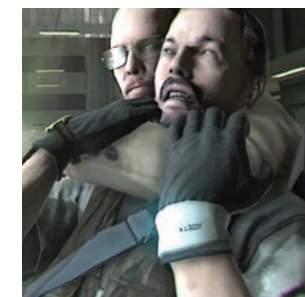


Lucha Libre AAA: Héroes del Ring

DS, PS3, PSP, WII, XBOX 360

It looks like wrestling, but with thrilling acrobatics and those scary masks, it's not — it's *lucha libre*. In the first game exclusively featuring Mexican wrestling, you can play as a high-flying *técnico* (good guy) or chair-throwing *rudo*. Exciting moves earn popularity points, embarrassing losses can get you — gasp — unmasked.

► RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 9



Kane & Lynch 2: Dog Days

PC, PS3, XBOX 360

Following a pair of brutish crooks through Shanghai's underworld, the big appeal of this third-person shooter is its multiplayer mode: Fragile Alliance. Players escaping a robbery can work together, or betray each other to keep more loot. But beware, murdered teammates return as cops trying to stop you.

► RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 31

DVD RELEASES

>> BIG MOVIES COMING TO THE SMALL SCREEN ◆ BY MARNI WEISZ

August



Kick-Ass's unlikely superheroes, from left: Aaron Johnson, Chloe Moretz and Nicolas Cage

AUGUST 3

Kick-Ass

STARS: Aaron Johnson, Nicolas Cage
DIRECTOR: Matthew Vaughn
(Stardust)

STORY: This surprisingly gory flick based on Mark Millar's comic book fits into the superhero sub-genre of regular people who train to be masked avengers despite lacking superhuman skills (*Defendor*, *Mystery Men*). *Kick-Ass* covers the issue from two perspectives, starring Johnson as a well-meaning but inept teen who

does his best to fight crime with little more than a spandex suit, while Cage and a pre-pubescent Chloe Moretz play a couple of armed-to-the-teeth, highly skilled crime-fighters who take pleasure in popping bones and crushing internal organs.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

STARS: Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron
DIRECTOR: Thor Freudenthal
(Hotel for Dogs)

STORY: Hope springs eternal for 11-year-old Greg Heffley (Gordon), who's about to start middle school, and is sure he's going to

be one of the popular kids. But alas, it's not to be, and the trials and tribulations of being a wimpy kid play out in this comedy based on Jeff Kinney's book. **DVD Extras:** "Greg's Deleted Diary Pages," director commentary

AUGUST 10

Death at a Funeral

STARS: Chris Rock, Martin Lawrence
DIRECTOR: Neil LaBute
(Lakeview Terrace)

STORY: At their dad's funeral, a family finds out that pops had a

gay lover. The film is nearly a shot-for-shot remake of the 2007 British film of the same name, and even uses the same actor — the diminutive Peter Dinklage — in the role of daddy's secret bedmate, Frank.

Date Night

STARS: Steve Carell, Tina Fey
DIRECTOR: Shawn Levy
(Night at the Museum)

STORY: Two of TV's hottest comedic actors — *The Office*'s Carell and *30 Rock*'s Fey — team up to play boring New Jersey couple Phil and Claire Foster, who attempt to

On-the-run couple Tina Fey and Steve Carell seek help from hunky Mark Wahlberg in *Date Night*

be less boring by stealing another couple's dinner reservations at an exclusive New York restaurant. Too bad some thugs want to do very bad things to that other couple, and refuse to believe the Fosters when they say they've got the wrong people. **DVD Extras:** gag reel, commentary track, "Directing 301 with Shawn Levy"

AUGUST 17

The Last Song

STARS: Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
DIRECTOR: Julie Anne Robinson (debut)

STORY: In one of them transition roles — in which Miley Cyrus attempts to transform from TV popster to adult actor — the artist formerly known as Hannah Montana plays Ronnie, a cranky 16-year-old forced to spend a summer on idyllic Tybee Island with her dad (Greg Kinnear), who's split from her mom. Ronnie thinks it was all dad's fault, and isn't very fond of men in general...until she meets

Will (Hemsworth), a too-tall volleyball player with pretty eyes. **DVD Extras:** set tour, music video for "When I Look at You," making of the music video

Gunless

STARS: Paul Gross, Sienna Guillory
DIRECTOR: William Phillips
(Foolproof)

STORY: In 1882, an American gunslinger (Gross) arrives in a Canadian town and picks a fight with the blacksmith. A showdown is in order, but not possible until someone can find a gun for the blacksmith. And finding a gun in 1882 Canada is easier said than done, allowing the filmmakers to play up the humorous contrasts between pacifist Canucks and aggressive Americans. **DVD Extras:** "Construction Design," "Dance Hall," "Guns of *Gunless*," "The Good, the Bad and the Canadians"

Me and Orson Welles

STARS: Zac Efron, Christian McKay
DIRECTOR: Richard Linklater
(Before Sunset)

STORY: Little-known British actor McKay stole most of the credit for making this movie work. He

plays a young and blustery Orson Welles who impulsively casts an ambitious high school student (Efron) in his stage production of *Caesar*. Look for Claire Danes as Sonja, the theatre's office manager who's involved with both men. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, "The Real Orson Welles"

AUGUST 24

The Back-up Plan

STARS: Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
DIRECTOR: Alan Poul (debut)

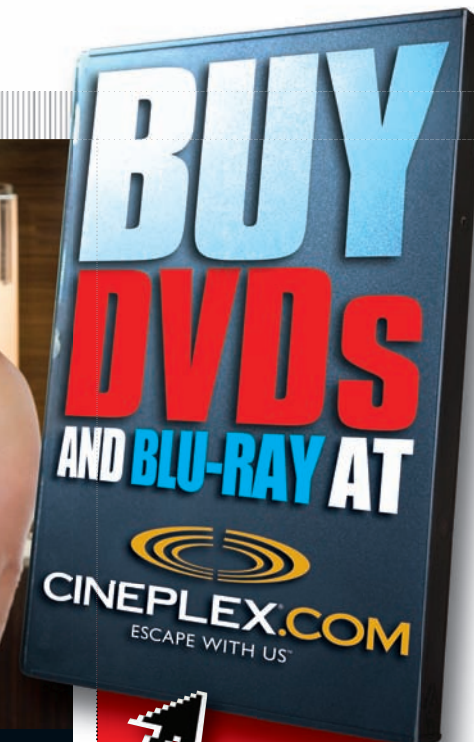
STORY: Zoe (Lopez) wants a baby. Zoe is single. Zoe is getting older. Zoe decides to be artificially inseminated. Zoe conceives. Zoe meets Stan (O'Loughlin). Stan is cute. Stan is nice. Zoe likes Stan. Zoe doesn't want to tell Stan she's already pregnant. Zoe has a problem only a romantic-comedy can solve.

AUGUST 31

The Trotsky

STARS: Jay Baruchel, Emily Hampshire
DIRECTOR: Jacob Tierney
(Twist)

STORY: Perhaps it's because his



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name is Leon Bronstein — which was Leon Trotsky's birth name (well, actually it was Lev Bronstein, but let's just go with it) — that convinces a West Montreal high school student (Baruchel) he's the reincarnation of the Russian revolutionary. He also believes he's destined to relive all of the important moments in Trotsky's life, and thinks he's hit the jackpot when he meets an older woman named Alexandra (Hampshire). Trotsky's first wife was an older woman named Aleksandra. But the real work begins when Leon takes over his school's student union.

SCREENTEST

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF MOVIE TRIVIA

1

Going the Distance stars two actors who've had an off-and-on relationship for several years. Name them.

2

Rob Reiner wrote the script for this month's *Flipped*. Before that he hadn't written a feature film since collaborating with Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer on one in 1984. Name that film.

3

Brandon Routh plays Todd in *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*. In which 2006 film did he get his "big break" playing a major superhero only to disappear in the ensuing years?

4

Takers star Zoe Saldana had a huge 2009, appearing in both *Star Trek* and *Avatar*. Which movie scored the higher approval rating on Rottentomatoes.com?

5

Emma Thompson wrote the script for *Nanny McPhee Returns*. In the 1990s she wrote a movie based on a Jane Austen novel and won an Adapted Screenplay Oscar for it. Name that film.

6

Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman reunite for *The Switch*. For which unconventional relationship movie did they share the screen in 2006?

7

Julia Roberts has romances with Billy Crudup, James Franco and Javier Bardem in *Eat Pray Love*. Which of those actors had a short story published in *Esquire* this year?



Takers' Zoe Saldana

Brandon Routh in *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*Emma Thompson seeks silence in *Nanny McPhee Returns*

» ANSWERS

1. Justin Long and Drew Barrymore
2. *This Is Spinal Tap*
3. *Superman Returns*
4. *Star Trek 5: Sense and Sensibility*
5. *The Break-Up*
6. James Franco
7. Billy Crudup

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STARGAZING

HOROSCOPE FOR AUGUST 2010 ♦ BY DAN LIEBMAN



Charlize Theron

SIGN: Leo

BORN: August 7, 1975

WHERE: Benoni, Gauteng, South Africa

Leo

July 23 ★ August 22

August is a month of significant achievement, but you need an escape valve, too. The key is to create a timetable that balances dedication with diversion. Keep your expanding ego in check after the 15th. It's important to share the limelight with a shy friend.

Virgo

August 23 ★ September 22

The month's storyline includes seemingly unconnected subplots. But there is a commonality — and by the 31st you see how the scenes fit together. Follow up on applications and appointments. The word "passive" should not be in your vocabulary.

Libra

September 23 ★ October 22

There's an addition in your life — a pet, perhaps, or a long-term guest. It's a good month to breathe life into a dormant relationship. A mix of perseverance and creativity, not razzle-dazzle, brings acclaim in your field and leads to a big boost in self-confidence.

Scorpio

October 23 ★ November 21

You're eager to share information, but keep still until the facts are confirmed. Right now you shine at selling ideas. Look for opportunities in advertising and marketing, especially during the weeks of the 16th and 23rd.

Sagittarius

November 22 ★ December 22

Enthusiasm and energy are among your traits. You make the most of both qualities as you face a family-related challenge, take a trip to an unexpected destination and begin a project that involves rebuilding.

Capricorn

December 23 ★ January 20

Structure and order are all-important to Capricorn. If you can break loose — even slightly — you'll discover a fascinating new side of your personality. It's a good month to collect debts.

Aquarius

January 21 ★ February 19

Individuality defines you, and you prize your freedom. But if a blossoming romance or friendship is to flourish this month, you'll need to master the art of compromise.

Pisces

February 20 ★ March 20

Distinguish between the important and merely interesting information that bombards your desk. After the 16th, you're invited to take on an assignment that may not seem like an ideal fit. Give it a chance.

Aries

March 21 ★ April 20

Avoid confrontation throughout August. An instigator is looking for new and subtle ways to irritate you, and it's important that you don't take the bait. It's a good month to plan a romantic strategy. Career- or education-related plans start to gain momentum.

Taurus

April 21 ★ May 22

It's easy to neglect the small picture as you focus on the big one. Example: as you continue to work for global change, you mustn't ignore the needs of your home environment.

Gemini

May 23 ★ June 21

Communication, your most celebrated trait, can lead to financial gain by the 31st. Meanwhile, as you deal with difficult individuals, you discover an inner strength that you didn't know you had.

Cancer

June 22 ★ July 22

Ruled by the moon, you're sensitive, intuitive and family-oriented. This month finds you involved with — and attracted to — opposites: independent, competitive and assertive types. You're also starting a project or job and must set the ground rules early on.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1st: Sam Mendes

2nd: Mary-Louise Parker

3rd: Martin Sheen

4th: Billy Bob Thornton

5th: Jonathan Silverman

6th: Vera Farmiga

7th: Charlize Theron

8th: Dustin Hoffman

9th: Melanie Griffith

10th: Antonio Banderas

11th: Viola Davis

12th: Casey Affleck

13th: Paul Greengrass

14th: Halle Berry

15th: Ben Affleck

16th: Angela Bassett

17th: Robert De Niro

18th: Robert Redford

19th: Kyra Sedgwick

20th: Amy Adams

21st: Kim Cattrall

22nd: Colm Feore

23rd: Jay Mohr

24th: Marlee Matlin

25th: Tim Burton

26th: Macaulay Culkin

27th: Tom Ford

28th: Jack Black

29th: Elliott Gould

30th: Cameron Diaz

31st: Richard Gere

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FAMOUS LAST WORDS

OUR READERS HAVE THEIR SAY

We asked you...

Which movie's wardrobe department would you like to raid?



“The *Devil Wears Prada*. All of the designer clothes and accessories make it one of the most fashionable movies, and I would gladly take Andrea's place to get my hands on them.”

—Katherine Tutko, Toronto, Ont.

>> You told us...

“Either of the *Legally Blonde* movies' wardrobe departments would be great to raid! All those pretty pink things, and especially all that sparkle in one room — a.k.a. Heaven!!!”

—Melissa Drake, Etobicoke, Ont.

“The *Twilight Saga: Eclipse* — especially the Cullens' wardrobe. It's very classic, but subtle. They have a great fashion sense. I love all the little details. Tish Monaghan did an amazing job with all the *Twilight* films.”

—Megan Conway, Barrie, Ont.

“I can't think of anything more thrilling than being lost in the costume department of *Gone With the Wind*. The historic value alone is mind-boggling. I would try on every beautiful ball gown, dance to a waltz and flirt madly with my Rhett.”

—Lorraine Waller, Guelph, Ont.

“I would raid the *Star Wars* wardrobe department because I think their costumes are out of this world. I would love to be Chewbacca for a day!”

—Phil Capobianco, Hamilton, Ont.

NEXT QUESTION: Which movie character makes the best Halloween costume, and what should you wear?



ANSWER ONLINE at Cineplex.com/famouslastwords

All responses must be entered by August 31st. Look for the answers to this question in the October issue. Responses may be edited for length and clarity.

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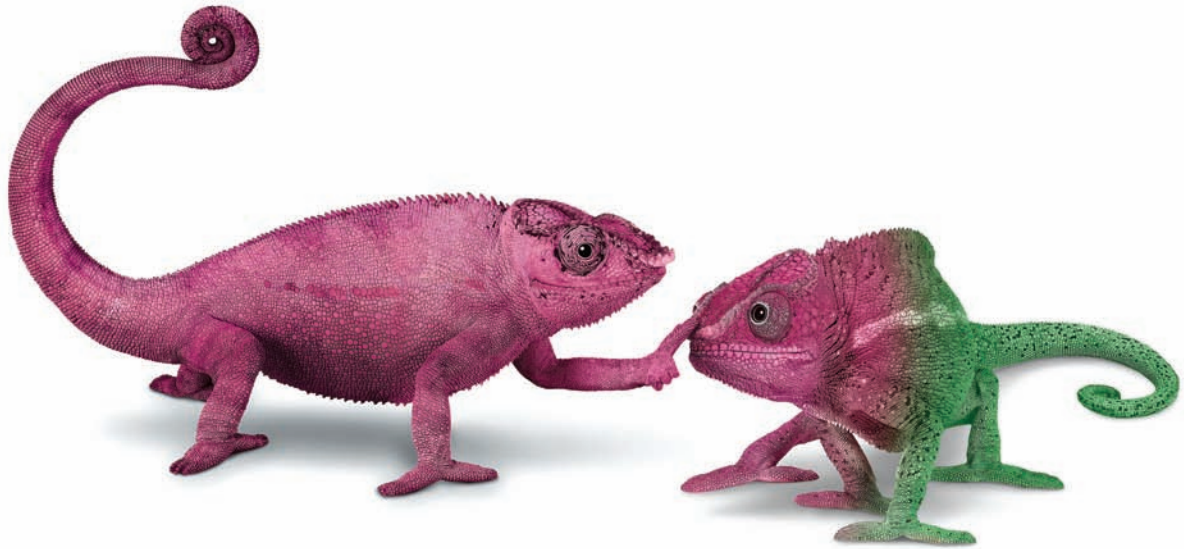


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*No purchase necessary. Contest closes at 11:59pm EST on August 31, 2010. To enter the contest, members must register online at www.scene.ca/promo/mazda. To complete this registration, entrants must successfully answer a mathematical skill testing question and complete a four (4) question online survey. With successful registration members will receive one (1) entry into the contest. Contest entrants must be over the age of majority in their province if residence before the end of the contest period and must be either an existing SCENE member or become a SCENE member at the time they register online to enter the contest. Maximum of one (1) entry per member. There is one (1) Grand Prize of a 2011 Mazda 2 GS (ARV \$20,790 CDN). There are one-hundred (100) Secondary Prizes of "Free Movies for A Year" which equates to 12,000 SCENE points each, or one free movie per month per calendar year (ARV of \$120.00 CDN). There are eight-hundred (800) Third Prizes of 1000 SCENE points each (ARV of \$10 CDN). The odds of winning will depend on the total number of eligible entries received during the contest period. For full contest rules and regulations visit www.scene.ca/promo/mazda.
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